



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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10 July 1985

Mr. Frank Davies
THE MIAMI HERALD
No. 1 Herald Plaza
Miami, FL 33101

Dear Mr. Davies:

Your recent review of Admiral Stansfield Turner's book suggests that the Central Intelligence Agency's pre-publication review process "picked apart" Admiral Turner's book for political reasons. Your assertions are incorrect. In fact, the review process, which is applied equally to all present and former employees of the CIA, exists solely to identify and delete classified material to avoid disclosure of information potentially damaging to national security. Further, you allude to the reviewers as "editors." This is also far from the truth. The CIA scrupulously avoided making editorial changes in Admiral Turner's manuscript to correct errors or change in any way the thrust of his book.

The CIA's record in avoiding any kind of partisan stance in its review process is a matter of record. We think your readers deserve to know that the CIA applied the same standards to Admiral Turner's work as we would to that of any other employee. We regret that Admiral Turner has chosen to criticize a process that he established when he was Director of Central Intelligence and which he surely knows to be free of political taint.

Finally, you referred to the Central Intelligence as "vocal critics of Turner's tenure." This is equally untrue. The CIA has taken no public position at all regarding the stewardship of Admiral Turner or any other former Director.

Sincerely,

George V. Lauder
Director, Public Affairs